



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update



USCG Issues Change-1 to NVIC 07-04

On October 29, 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) issued Change-1 to the Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 07-04, titled "Ballast Water Management for the Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Waters of the United States." This document revises the previously issued NVIC 07-04 (June 17, 2004), incorporates changes made by the July 28, 2004, Final Rule titled,

"Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for U.S. Waters," and the Commandant (G-MOC) Policy Letter 04-06, issued August 10, 2004. The NVIC provides guidance for USCG personnel, vessel owners and operators, masters, shipping agents, and persons-in-charge concerning compliance with and enforcement of the USCG's Ballast Water Management (BWM) Program. NVIC 07-04,

CH-1 can be downloaded from the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm> as well as <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/esn.htm>.

Ballast Water Reporting Forms can be found at: <http://invasions.si.edu/NBIC/bwform.html>.

Ballast Water Management Progress Noted at IMO

The 52nd Session of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London, October 11-14 2004, noted the progress made on (G-8) Guidelines for the approval of BWM systems and (G-9) the procedure for approval of BWM systems that make use of Active Substances.

The G-8 Guidelines contain functional shipboard testing requirements, however, the issue of including testing for compliance with regulation D-2 as a part of shipboard testing will be decided at MEPC 53.

The Ballast Water Working Group plans to convene to complete further work on the guidelines at Bulk Liquid

and Gases (BLG) 9 and intersessionally during the week prior to MEPC 53. A separate "Review Group" will be convened at MEPC 53 to conduct the review of the convention.

The Delegation Reports for MEPC 43-52 can be found online at: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/IMOMEPC.htm>.

Coming Soon: Ballast Water Management Equivalent Reporting Program

The Equivalent Reporting Program has reached the final stages of the approval process and is planned to be implemented late December 2004 or early January 2005.

The Equivalent Reporting Program offers an alternative for an owner, operator, master, agent, charterer, or persons-in-charge to submit required BWM Reports in a single batch report on a monthly basis, instead of on a port-to-port, pre-arrival schedule as required under 33 CFR 151.2041(b).

BWM Equivalent Reporting Program

Eligibility criteria to participate in the are as follows:

- (1) The applicant vessel must operate exclusively within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or Canadian equivalent;
- (2) The applicant vessel must not have ever been listed on a USCG Lookout List for failing to submit a ballast water report or for submitting incomplete or inaccurate reports; and
- (3) The person submitting the form must have suitable capability for emailing the form as the attachments.

Other requirements are as follows:

- (1) The applicant vessel makes 10 or more ballast water reports per calendar month; or
- (2) The fleet of applicant vessels, owned by the same company, makes 50 or more ballast water reports per calendar month.

Upon implementation, information on this program will be available via the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) website at: <http://invasions.si.edu/NBICbwmform.html>.

Visit us online:

www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm